

# CHIPPEWA VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

*Learning, Connections, and Growth for All*

Another school year is coming to a close. I think it was a good one. To me, it felt the most normal of any year since pre-Covid. It's time to celebrate some of our accomplishments. Below are many of our highlights from the school year:

## **Academics**

- 73 seniors will graduate Summa Cum Laude - GPA of 3.9 or higher, 56 Magna Cum Laude - GPA of 3.75 - 3.89, and 61 Cum Laude - GPA of 3.5 - 3.74.
- 622 student and 343 staff recognition certificates were distributed this year as a part of our positive behavior program.
- On Decision Day at CVHS we recognized students going to 37 different colleges or universities, and 2 military branches. *Michigan schools:* Grand Valley, Wayne State, Eastern, Central, Western, Northern, Michigan Tech, U of M, MSU, Detroit Mercy, Oakland, Ferris State, Macomb CC, Oakland CC, Henry Ford CC, Cornerstone, Northwood, Kettering, CCS, Albion, Calvin, Lawrence Tech, Madonna, Davenport, Rochester, MIAT College of Technology, Olivet. *Out of state schools:* Weber State, Toledo, Boston U, University of Tampa, Grand Canyon, Purdue Fort Wayne, BYU, Alabama A & M, Tennessee, Air Force Academy. *Military:* Air Force, Marines.
- We had one student named to the Macomb County All-Academic Team. These are the top students in the county based on SAT and GPA. Congratulations again to Erik Rollmann for earning this recognition. Additionally, Erik was recognized for being one of the top 20 students in the county, putting him on the 2024 All-Academic Dream Team.
- Our Science Olympiad team secured an impressive 3rd place in the Regional Competition, beating Dakota and the IAM.
  - 4<sup>th</sup> place finishes- Anatomy and Physiology, Astronomy, Fossils, and Optics
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> place finishes- Air Trajectory, Scrambler, Write it Do it, Disease Detectives, Forestry and Geo Mapping
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> place finishes- Robot Tour and Tower
  - 1<sup>st</sup> place finishes - Flight.Additionally, sophomore Zachary Kraemer finished 8th in the state in his event, scrambler vehicle, at the state tournament at Western Michigan University.
- Chippewa Valley was the top performer in Macomb County in the Michigan Math League. Congratulations to Lola Obeney, Alex Wolfe, and Amelia Ndoja who were in the high scoring group of students for the Michigan Math League.
- We implemented a number of new strategies to help with our 10<sup>th</sup> Grade Transition. These include a new Counseling Department structure in which caseloads are based on grade levels, so our 10th graders have two dedicated counselors to focus on their unique needs. In addition, we created two support structures for identified 10th grade students - one is a watch list that connected identified students with an administrator before the school year even started and another which placed an identified group of 10th grade students in a cohort where they were together for most of the day during the first semester with a group of teachers collaborating to provide them with extra support.

- For the first time in school history, a student has won a Gold Key in the National Scholastic Writing Competition, the premier writing competition for high school writers in the nation. Rachel Tisor's piece "I Have Already Killed Myself" was recognized in the Personal Essay & Memoir category.
- Rebeka Sina was the first CVHS student to receive the new Seal of Biliteracy on her diploma.

### **Athletics**

- We had numerous MAC Champions during the fall sports season. These include Football, Volleyball (back to back), Girls Golf (undefeated regular season), Girls Swimming & Diving, and, individually, Jack DeWaele (Boys Cross Country).
- Girls and Boys Basketball both won District Championships. The boys team also won a regional game to advance to the regional final.
- Julia Snyder placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the State, earning All-State Honors in Wrestling.
- Four of our Varsity Bowlers made the All-Macomb County team. And our coach was the coach of the year. And Owen Dibucci bowled a 300 game.
- We had a successful Esports season, including having our Smash team (3 students) making the first round of the League Playoffs! Check out their video: <https://youtu.be/9Raps3SSlfw?si=3Y9FNcqNqj2oOsTv>
- Baseball had their first ever 30 win season and won a MAC championship.
- We have 10 athletes who have qualified to compete in the state track meet.
- Mia Barnett in the 100-meter hurdles.
- Kennedy Gatlin in the 100-meter dash.
- Jailen Thomas, Eric Thomas, Duayne Joplin-Johnson in the 4x100 meter relay.
- Aaron Franz in the 4x400 meter relay.
- Will Jones-Terrell in the 4x100 meter relay and the 4x200 meter relay.
- Noah Morris in the 200-meter dash, the 4x200 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay.
- Chris Estell and Shamar Heard in the 200-meter dash, the 400-meter run, the 4x200 meter relay and the 4x400 meter relay.
- The boys track team finished 2nd in the state. Shamar Heard won the 400, 200, and anchored the 4 x 400 relay. He was also anchor of the 4 x 200 relay, which finished 2nd.
- Shamar, Noah, Chris and Aaron set a new school record in the 4x400 meter relay. Shamar set a new school record in the 400-meter run.
- Shamar Heard is a top track runner in the state and is headed to Tennessee to continue his track career. Check out this article: <https://www.mhsaa.com/sports/boys-track-field/stories/chippewa-valleys-heard-has-big-plans-add-all-time-sprint-legacy>
- We recognized 46 Three Sport Athletes this year including Noah Luft and Allison Wilks who have been Three Sport Athletes for all 4 years of high school.
- We had a total of 463 Varsity athletes compete on 27 different teams. 326 of those, or 70.41% earned a MAC Academic award for having a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Fall – 197 Athletes – 112 MAC Academic awards = 56.85%
- Winter – 104 Athletes – 70 MAC Academic awards = 67.31%
- Spring – 162 Athletes – 144 MAC Academic awards = 88.89%
- We also had 29 graduating Seniors commit to play sports in colleges across the country.

## Arts

- 7 choir students were selected for the Michigan School Vocal Music Association Region C Honors Choir!
- Chippewa Valley High School choir made history! Alina Bucanovic, Julia Clark, Julia Johnson, and Evannah Stanley performed at State Solo and Ensemble as soloists and as a quartet. Every performance earned a PERFECT score! The SSAA Quartet was neck and neck in the running to be selected as the top small ensemble! For the first time in CVHS History, we have a student selected for the in person All-State Festival, and that student is Junior, Julia Johnson! That means she is one of the top 10 to 12 singers in Michigan! Additionally, we had a student selected as an alternate soloist for All-State, and that is Julia Clark! All 4 singers were in the top 6 singers on site! So Evannah and Alina were next in line! This is the highest honor any individual singer can receive in Michigan, and to have 4 in the top 6 spots is unheard of.
- Our Big Reds Marching Band for earning a 1<sup>st</sup> division rating at MSBOA Marching Band festival. They also earned a first-place score from the Parade band adjudicators at the 97<sup>th</sup> *America's Thanksgiving Parade* .
- The drumline continued their creative performances, including making the news:
- [VIDEO: Chippewa Valley Band drumline helps with adorable Homecoming proposal \(clickondetroit.com\)](#)
- Our Winterguard Team took home first place at the Stoney Creek competition. They were also the 2024 Michigan Colorguard Circuit Scholastic Regional A Champions.
- We were also in the news for our spring musical production: <https://www.macombdaily.com/2023/11/06/cvhs-grad-returns-to-his-alma-mater-to-teach-and-share-his-passion-for-theater/> and
- <https://www.candgnews.com/news/cvhs-spring-musical-brings-smaller-cast-bigger-challenges-4911>
- Seven students accomplished getting work into the 2024 National Scholastics competition at the district level. Three of these students were Gold key recipients who will move on to the national level competition. Students were recognized for Ceramics and Glass, Painting, and Photography.

## CTE

- The Chippewa Valley Auto Tech Club attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Macomb Engine Build Competition Friday May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The competition includes a written qualifying test and a hands-on engine build. Students had to completely disassemble and rebuild a small block Chevy engine in the best possible time, and the engine must start up. The team finished in first place with 64 minutes total time from tear down to engine start. Please congratulate this year's engine team: Noah Saffran, Nick Rescoe, Nick Kania, Vance Ratliff, and Evan Vogel. Please also congratulate the following support members: Corey Ashwell, Aiden Carver, Stavio Sheena, Vanessa Easterling, and Dawn Moore-Dillon for their behind-the-scenes project support.
- In Auto Tech, 15 students passed the Student ASE Certification in 1 or more repair areas. 12 students with 1 repair area certification, 2 students with 2 repair area certifications, and 1 student with 3 repair area certifications
- 3 students have also passed the State of Michigan Mechanics Certification/Licensing exam.

- 10 DECA students qualified for state competition. 7 of those students earned recognition as DECA STATE FINALISTS after competing in the state competition in Detroit. They move on to the International conference in California.
- The Red Zone, the school-based enterprises at Chippewa Valley High School, was among 728 school-based enterprises achieving gold-level certification for the 2023-2024 school year and will be recognized during DECA's International Career Development Conference this April 27-30, 2024, in Anaheim, California.
- Ronald Gurunian earned the Information Technology (IT) Specialist Artificial Intelligence certification. Candidates for this exam are AI enabled learners and are prepared for the professional use of AI by understanding how AI can be used to solve problems. Ronald is the second student in the district, and the first from CVHS, to earn the Artificial Intelligence certification.
- The Chippewa Valley Schools CyberPatriot Team earned 2nd Place in the CyberPatriot State Round (Michigan, Open Division, Silver Tier).
- In the Medical Academy, 44 students passed the Patient Care Technician certification test.

### **Community**

- We held our annual Purple Week during the week of September 18. This week builds community within our school and connects us in a purpose larger than ourselves. As a result of Purple Week efforts, CVHS made a \$2000 donation to the Van Andel Institute in Grand Rapids for cancer research.
- Relay For Life of Clinton Township and SE Macomb County thanked our Key Club and National Honor Society members, and JV and Varsity Volleyball teams, for volunteering their time over six weekends to help raise money for the American Cancer Society.
- Like last year, this holiday season we asked our Sophomore and Junior Student Council kids to make stockings to donate to the Macomb Foster Closet. The students far exceeded expectations and put together and donated 28 beautiful and thoughtful stockings and gift baskets with items that are needed, wanted, and age appropriate. The thought put into these gifts is apparent and heart-warming.
- We received close to 400 toys for our annual Toy Drive, which we distributed to families in need at Huron, Clinton Valley, Miami, and Erie Elementaries.
- Through generous donations from our staff, baked goods were purchased and we raised \$636.25 for the Rainbow Connection. This money supports wishes for children battling cancer, including one of our own students who is battling leukemia. That student's family has reached out to the Rainbow Connection for a wish and this will help fulfill it!
- Our Coalition Teen Council (CTC) hosted The Arrive Alive Tour event at Chippewa Valley High School on March 16th. They were able to educate 110 participants directly in the driver seat of the Arrive Alive impaired / distracted driving simulator. Also, there were 86 surveys collected from participants. This was part of the state's Strive for a Safer Drive (S4SD) campaign. Our school won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the state for this event. There were 41 schools that entered the grant program and 38 schools that finished the requirements. CTC would like to say thank you to Clinton Township Police Department (Detective Smith), the film club (Dr. Lawrence), auto club (Mr. Hart), marketing (Mrs. Patterson), and the National Honor's Art Society (Ms. Wilson)!
- I represented our district and our county at a State of Michigan House Education Committee Hearing. [See the article.](#)

Have a great summer and Go Big Reds,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Todd Distelrath". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "T".

Todd Distelrath

Principal